

(2) Change in scope of the Project i.e. inclusion of Left Bank Canal and the consequent increase in irrigation from 45,000 hectares to 80,750 hectares.

(3) General Price escalation.

(b) Irrigation projects are formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments from their own resources. The Central Government release Block loans and grants to the State Governments not tied to any sector of development or the Project. The information on stipulated and actual release of funds is not available. However, actual expenditure on the Project during 92-93, 93-94, 94-95 are Rs. 30.00 crores, Rs. 34.00 crores, Rs. 38.50 crore (anticipated) respectively. The Working Group of the Planning Commission recommended an outlay of Rs. 33.00 crores for the year 1995-96.

(c) The Progress of the Project is generally reviewed with the officials of the State Government at the time of annual plan discussions in the Planning Commission and it is impressed upon them to provide funds for scheduled completion of the Projects.

(d) The Government of Maharashtra has provided an outlay of Rs. 45.19 crores in their Annual Plan 1996-97 for this Project.

[Translation]

Monuments in Delhi

3409. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that around 500 monuments of archaeological importance have been destructed in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for timely protection of these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No centrally protected monument has been destroyed in Delhi.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

Ground Water

3410. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether exploration of ground water adversely affects environment, soil and climate;

(b) if so, the analytical details thereof;

(c) the names of States where such adverse affects have been noticed;

(d) whether the Government propose to enact a law to use ground water with restraint;

(e) if so, when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question do not arise.

(d) to (f). Water being a State subject, enactment of law for regulation and control of ground water development is done by the State Governments/Union Territories. The Union Government have circulated a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories requesting them to enact suitable legislation on the lines of the Model Bill for regulation and control of ground water development.

Ground Water Level

3411. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the underground water level in plateau regions of Madhya Pradesh is constantly going down;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Union Government to prevent the water level to go down;

(c) whether the schemes regarding raising the ground water level of the affected districts have been sent to the Ministry by Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) whether his Ministry will provide Central assistance for implementation by clearing these schemes on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Long term observations of ground water level have shown gradual decline of ground water level in some pockets including plateau regions of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The steps taken by the Union Government to prevent decline in the level of ground water include :

(i) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(ii) Formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the State Governments in artificial recharge of ground water. The Scheme is at consultation stage.

(iii) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.